



E-NEWSLETTER

<http://www.house.gov/simpson>

4/28/03

What's Up this Week

For the week of May 14, 2003 to May 18

Wednesday

Simpson will attend the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Health and Human Services. The committee will be taking testimony from the public including two Idahoans. Treasure Valley resident Kelly J. Buckland is scheduled to testify on behalf of the National Council on Independent Living and Gonzalo Callison, a student at Boise State University, will testify on the Council on Opportunity in Education. The hearing begins at 10 a.m. EDT in 2358 Rayburn Office Building.

Friday

Congressman Simpson will speak to the graduates of the College of Southern Idaho at 8 p.m. The graduation ceremony will be at 315 Falls Avenue in Twin Falls.

Sunday

Simpson will speak to the Idaho Conservation League at Wild Idaho! at Red Fish Lake Sunday morning. This is Simpson's fifth annual visit to the conference since being elected to the House of Representatives



Simpson meets with Idaho students visiting Washington, D.C. for the 4-H Congress.

Message from Mike

Greetings from Washington, D.C.! Last week was a monumental week on Capitol Hill as the House passed the President's jobs and economic growth package. I had the privilege of presiding over the debate and hearing both the Democrat and Republican arguments. This week, Congress is continuing to deal with economic issues by voting on a pension reform bill. It will include safety guards to ensure that workers don't lose their retirement savings because of unscrupulous employers. The bill passed the House last year, but the Senate did not take action. God Bless America!

— Mike

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Weekly Website

Another Satisfied Customer?

Know your rights! If you have a consumer complaint find out where to find justice. Go to:
<http://www.consumeraction.gov/>

Federal Facts

The average American commutes 25.5 minutes to work.

Source: <http://www.census.gov>

Idaho History Quiz

What year did Idaho enter the Union?

Congratulations to Pete Black who answered last week's question correctly. Hell's Canyon is the deepest gorge in North America.

Quote of the Week

"Democracy is based on the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people."

— Harry Emerson Fosdick

Delegation Promotes Potatoes for Iraq Relief

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Idaho's Congressional Delegation today urged the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to consider using dehydrated potatoes for food relief efforts in Iraq. Twenty-six members of the House and Senate representing 12 States signed the letter from the Congressional Potato Caucus. Idaho Senators Larry Craig and Mike Crapo, and Representatives Mike Simpson and C.L. "Butch" Otter all are founding members of the Potato Caucus.

"The U.S. has a steady supply of quality dehydrated potatoes that could be immediately available to the USDA and USAID to be included in the food aid basket for short-term humanitarian assistance. Over the near to long term, the U.S. can be a supplier of potatoes for fresh consumption and seed while Iraq rebuilds its potato production and storage capacity," wrote the Idaho Delegation.

The Idaho Delegation's letter also stressed the nutritional value of dehydrated potatoes and the ease of use in situations such as Iraq. "Dehydrated potatoes are ideal for international food assistance. They are nutritious, economical to transport and easy to store and prepare. They have a long shelf life and need only potable or boiled water to rehydrate. Dehydrated potatoes are very cost-efficient to transport and cook, and a serving can be provided for just a few cents."

"The people of Iraq have traditionally produced and consumed potatoes. The political situation has resulted in the significant reduction in the availability of potatoes in Iraq. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), potato production dropped over 50% from a high of 418,479 metric tons (MT) in 1994 to 200,000 MT in 2000. Imports declined from 45,848 MT in 1994 to just 15,867 MT in 2000. Iraq is a country with a cultural history of consuming potatoes but currently has no means for producing them at the level that would satisfy demand."

Idaho Lawmakers Vote for Tax Cuts

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Idaho Congressmen Mike Simpson and C.L. "Butch" Otter joined the 222-203 House majority on Friday in supporting legislation to help create more than 1 million American jobs by the end of 2004 - **including almost 4,000 jobs in Idaho** - and promote the economy's long-term growth.

The Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act, H.R. 2, accelerates tax cuts for all Americans and reduces capital gains and dividend taxes in an effort to inject \$200 billion into the economy to drive consumer spending and job creation.

The measure incorporates President Bush's economic growth and stimulus plans for putting people back to work by creating investment incentives and leaving more money in the hands of working families. The majority of the package speeds up implementation of tax cuts initially approved in 2001. The Heritage Foundation says the plan would create **an average of almost 2,800 jobs a year in Idaho alone over the next five years.**

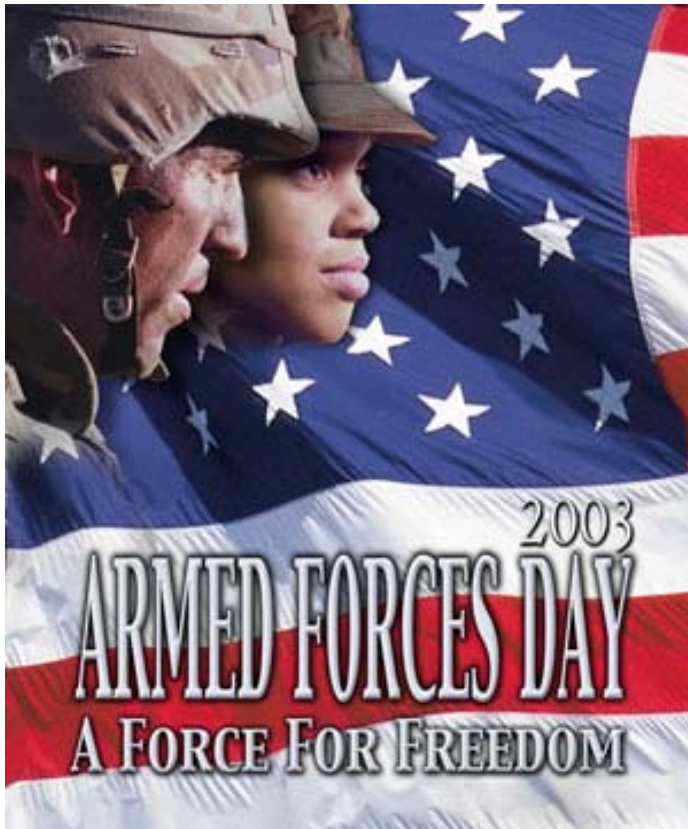
"The main debate surrounding President Bush's tax initiative has focused on whether this bill would actually help create new jobs. With the increased expenses due to the war on terror and the drop in the economy, some have suggested that tax cuts will only drive the federal budget further in debt. After carefully reviewing the bill, I believe it will stimulate economic growth both today and down the road. The longer Congress waits, the longer it will take for the economy to recover. The best way to get America out of debt isn't to stand by and watch the economy falter but to take positive actions to grow the economy and control spending in Washington, D.C. I'm committed to doing both," Simpson said.

The bill includes the following tax provisions:

- ***Child credit.*** Increases child credit to \$1,000 for 2003, 2004, and 2005. The current credit is \$600. **An estimated 115,000 Idaho tax filers would benefit.**
 - ***10-percent bracket.*** Accelerates the expansion of the 10-percent bracket for 2003, 2004 and 2005. **An estimated 287,000 Idaho tax filers would benefit.**
 - ***Marriage penalty relief.*** Accelerates the expansion of the 15-percent bracket and the increase in the standard deduction for married persons filing joint returns for 2003, 2004, and 2005. **An estimated 171,000 Idaho tax filers would benefit.**
 - ***Individual rate cuts.*** Accelerate the 2006 individual rate cut schedule to 2003. Rates reduced from 28 percent to 25 percent, 31 percent to 28 percent, 36 percent to 33 percent and 39.6 percent to 35 percent. **An estimated 81,000 Idaho tax filers would benefit.**
 - ***Small business expensing.*** For 2003 through 2007, increases the amount the small businesses can expense (immediately deduct) from \$25,000 to \$100,000. Increases definition of small business from \$200,000 of capital purchases to \$400,000. Provisions are indexed for inflation. **An estimated 99,000 Idaho tax filers would benefit.**
 - ***Dividend and capital gain tax rate reduction 5/15.*** Reduces the tax rate on dividends and capital gains to 5 percent for taxpayers in the lowest tax brackets and to 15 percent for all other taxpayers. **An estimated 127,000 Idaho tax filers would benefit.**
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Iraqi Freedom Update

This section gives you the latest war developments from the Department of Defense and perhaps items you won't get from the mainstream media.



Celebrate Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 17

President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marines Corp and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department -- the Department of Defense. According to a *New York Times* article published on May 17, 1952: "This is the day on which we have the welcome opportunity to pay special tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces ... to all the individuals who are in the service of their country all over the world. Armed Forces Day won't be a matter of parades and receptions for a good many of them."

Solders Find Second Suspected Mobile Weapons Lab in Iraq

MOSUL, Iraq, May 13, 2003 - Infantrymen of the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team found a suspected mobile bio-lab May 8 at the Al Kindi Rocket and Missile Research and Development Center, the largest such complex in Iraq.

The division immediately sent a team of chemical weapons specialists to the site, where it found a trailer nearly identical to one Iraqis turned over to a Special Forces unit near Erbil April 19. Both trailers contained components consistent with the development of biological agents, according to Maj. Bryan Lynch, chief division chemical officer. The Special Forces took photos of the trailer's interior and they're a perfect match, said Lynch.

Maj. Paul Haldeman, division deputy chemical officer, said the trailer contained an air compressor, a fomenter, a dryer and a storage rack. The biological agent would be grown in the fomenter, converted into a powder in the dryer, and placed in containers on the rack, ready for weapons application, he said.

Also present was a possible nutrient feeder, connected by a tube running into the fomenter. "You have to feed the organisms," Haldeman said. "It's kind of like brewing beer. You have to put hops and sugar in the mix to get the fermentation started."

A space stood empty between the rack and the dryer where holding tanks for the deadly microorganisms are alleged to have been, Haldeman said. "The trailer was, of course, looted," Lynch said. "It's missing the outer canvas, compressed tanks, gauges and tires." Shortly after the 101st arrived in Mosul, a former Al Kindi engineer handed over "a treasure map" of chemical or biological weapons buried inside the complex, said Haldeman. The map detailed such a cache buried near building 900, but it could not be found due to extensive damage by American bombing.
